Harrington John J Form 4 December 24, 2009

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB

3235-0287 Number:

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Form 4 or Form 5

obligations may continue. See Instruction

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Harrington John J

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

ATHERSYS, INC / NEW [ATHX]

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

_X__ Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

3201 CARNEGIE AVENUE 12/23/2009

below) below) Chief Scientific Officer

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

Symbol

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

CLEVELAND, OH 44115

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (I) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

(A)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security

Conversion or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

any

5. Number of **Transaction**Derivative Code Securities

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)

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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr.	8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)					
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amoun or Numbe of Shar
Employee nonqualified stock option (right to purchase)	\$ 5.28	12/23/2009		A		3,561		<u>(1)</u>	12/23/2019	Common Stock	3,561
Employee incentive stock option (right to purchase)	\$ 5.28	12/23/2009		A		18,939		<u>(1)</u>	12/23/2019	Common Stock	18,93

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships							
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
Harrington John J 3201 CARNEGIE AVENUE CLEVELAND, OH 44115	X		Chief Scientific Officer					

Signatures

/s/ Laura K. Campbell, as attorney-in-fact for John
Harrington 12/24/2009

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The option vests 25% in each of the four quarters in year 1.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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